



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$10.8 MILLION IN AID TO ASSIST MIGRANT AND SEASONAL WORKERS

WASHINGTON, October 14, 2008 —Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the award of \$10.8 million in emergency and disaster grant funds to assist low-income migrant and seasonal farm workers.

“These grants will be used to provide housing and other services to workers and rural communities affected by natural disasters or local, state or national emergencies,” Dorr said.

For example, the California Employment Development Department has been awarded \$8.3 million to provide assistance in Fresno and Kern counties in response to crop damage. In Alabama, the Telamon Corp. has been selected for a \$1.2 million grant to provide drought relief assistance in Baldwin, Covington, Escambia, Geneva, Lee, Houston and Russell counties.

The USDA funds can be used for rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, child care, transportation, repair or rehabilitation of farm worker housing and other services. Funding of each recipient is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

The following is a list of grant recipients:

State	Recipient	Grant Amount
AL	Telamon Corporation Inc.	\$1,200,000
CA	California Employment Development Department	\$8,351,111
CA	Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment	\$472,000
CA	Center for Technology	\$569,752
OH	Rural Opportunities, Inc.	\$250,000

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$91 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> .

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